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information, but it is not skilfully organized from the pedagogical point of view, a fault all too common with texts in elementary agriculture.

E. R. DOWNING

A well-organized reading text for biology classes.—It is a pleasure to record the appearance of a text in high-school biology that is a real biology¹—one in which the subject-matter is organized so as to present biological principles in their proper sequence without chopping the work up into botany, zoölogy, and physiology. These principles are illustrated in this book by animals or plants, according to whichever serves best the author's purposes, and the human physiology is incorporated under the appropriate headings, not tacked on as if an afterthought to a discussion of the physiology of other organisms, but made an integral part of biology, the most important part from our human standpoint.

The book is divided into six parts. The first briefly develops the notion of energy and the need of its development in the organism. Part two deals with life processes of the organism; three takes up the continuity of life; four, the external relations of organisms; five, heredity and evolution; six, man and other organisms, a study of the classification of living things, and man's superiority.

The text is primarily a reading text and the teacher would need to use some laboratory guide with it or furnish the directions himself. But the matter is well chosen, is modern, is clearly presented, and the illustrations are mostly new and to the point. As a rule the organisms chosen for discussion are those commonly occurring and of intrinsic interest to the pupils. The range of subject-matter is pretty wide and it is doubtful if the ordinary high-school class will cover the book in one year if projects or the needed laboratory work are added. Still the presentation is so interesting that pupils will take larger doses without protest than ordinarily. For instance, the subjects of tobacco and alcohol are given a statistical presentation with an array of facts that are fascinating and impressive.

E. R. DOWNING

An economics book for the high-school reference shelves.—A useful addition to the general introduction texts in economics has been made through the publication of John Roscoe Turner's *Introduction to Economics*.² It is a thorough, careful, readable book.

Professor Turner expresses in the preface his belief in fundamentals and he has made good his belief in the book proper. And in attempting to deal with fundamentals he has made rather happy use of the illustrative material which the past few years has been developing regarding modern industry and commerce. This material gives a readability to the book which is lacking in certain treatises which are concerned chiefly with principles.

The first four chapters of the book, though not so designated, are an introduction to what follows. They describe in a broad fashion the economic changes

¹ BENJAMIN C. GRUENBERG, *Elementary Biology*. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1919. Pp. x+528. \$1.56.

² JOHN ROSCOE TURNER, *Introduction to Economics*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1919. Pp. vi+641. \$2.50.

in England which preceded modern economic organization. Chapter four outlines the general characteristics of "The Present Economic Order." This type of introduction is useful but the author makes it less servicable than it might be if more constant reference for comparison were made to it in the main portion of the book.

The twenty-two chapters that compose the book proper are not in their plans or principles particularly different from the ordinary treatise. In these respects they are rather conventional than otherwise. But as has been suggested, there is a good deal of freshness in treatment which makes the book readable.

The book is not well adapted for secondary-school use as a text, although it would be a desirable volume on high-school reference shelves. For a text it is somewhat long, certainly too long for semester courses. It is also too much concerned with "technical economics" in parts to be of the most use to the average secondary class or secondary teacher. Further, the phraseology is not particularly well chosen for secondary use. For their own reading or for reference material teachers of economics in high schools will find it enlightening.

LEVERETT S. LYON

A readable text for high-school teachers of economics.—A volume well worth the attention of high-school teachers of economics is Laing's *An Introduction to Economics*.¹ A remarkable number of subjects and a remarkable amount of material are presented in a manner which on the whole is readable, interesting, and clear. For the most part the book moves with a swing quite different from the heavy pedagogic tread of many elementary economics texts.

Especially well worked out are chapters iv to ix dealing with the organization and laws of production and the organization of capital. This section should give the student more than usual interest.

The first three chapters set the assumptions on which the study of economics is to proceed. They are promising—almost over-promising as the matter turns out. The author promises, or at least forecasts, an analysis of a dynamic system of economics. "Modern civilization," he says, "is dynamic," and, later in referring to our economic structure, "it is one of modified and controlled competition." But the promise of this beginning is not maintained, especially after chapter x is reached. The analysis of value is primarily the old static analysis. Water and coffee have replaced the proverbial oranges in illustrating diminishing utility and little or nothing of the psychological factors or static assumptions involved in this theory are suggested. After a discussion of the "law of supply and demand," still largely in static terms, the customary chapter on monopoly price follows.

Once the discussion of value is ended, the book devotes itself to a considerable extent to special problems. This is not wholly the case, but banking, money problems, international trade, and the organization of labor are featured, while a special chapter is devoted to the remuneration of labor in addition to the more general one dealing with other forms of distribution. These special chapters are

¹ GRAHAM A. LAING, *An Introduction to Economics*. New York: Gregg Publishing Co., 1919. Pp. xi+454.